

JAMES

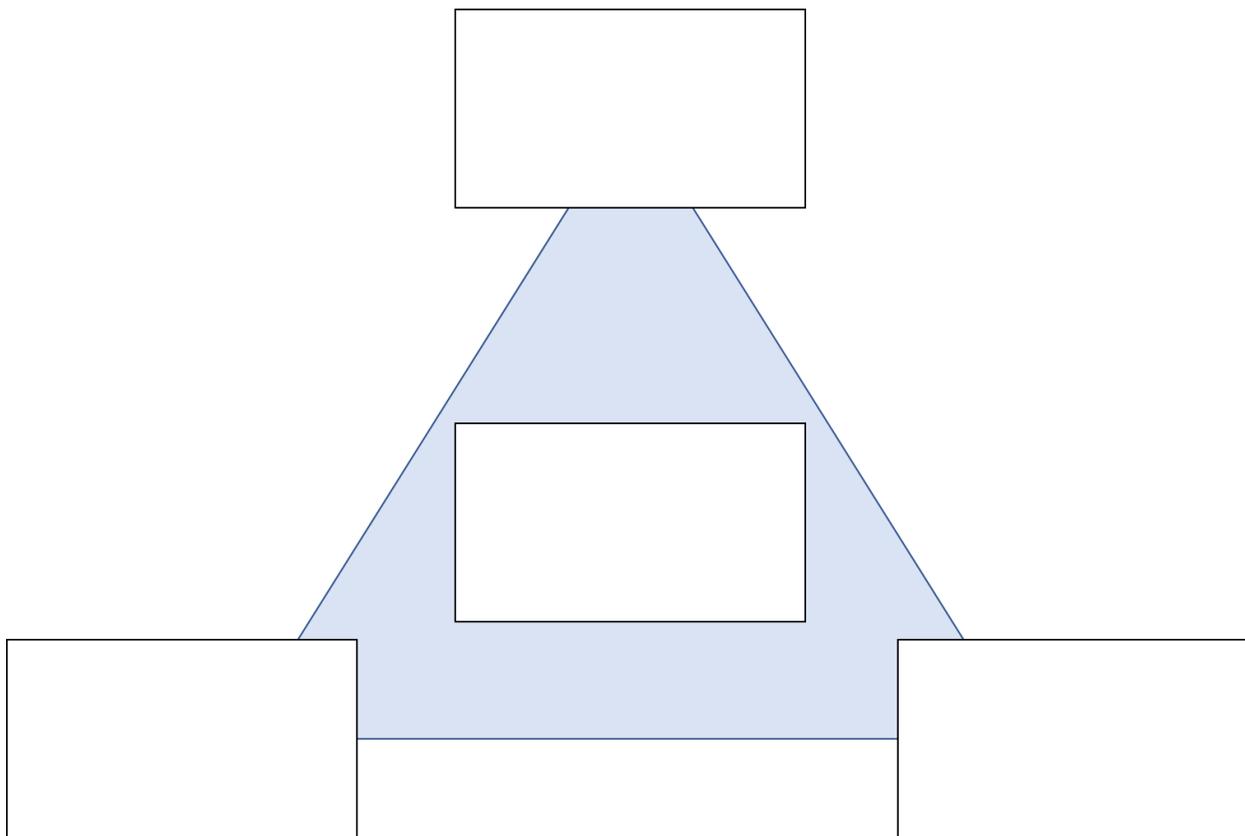
A Faith That Works

Study 11

Wisdom from Above: Peace

James 3:13-18

1) Comprehension question. Based on the video lecture, how is wisdom from above described? Fill in the blanks.



2) Objective question. Based on the video lecture, which of the following are true about godly wisdom? Select all that apply.

- A. Wisdom is valuable
- B. Wisdom is as valuable as jewels
- C. Wisdom is more valuable than jewels
- D. Wisdom makes one rich

E. Wisdom gives successful living

F. Wisdom is a gift

G. Wisdom is founded on one fundamental fact - the fear of man

H. Wisdom is founded on one fundamental fact - the fear of God

3) Discussion question. Is factual knowledge enough to be wise? Give an example of why or why not.

4) Discussion question. Based on the video lecture, which bible character was described as having situational insight? Explain briefly why.

Samuel in 1 Sam. 16:2 when he was to appoint David as the new king after Saul. Samuel would have been killed should Saul come to know about the anointing of David.

Before going to Bethlehem, Samuel was told by the Lord to sacrifice for Him there. The adherence to truth and adherence to God's design and purpose allowed Samuel to do what God desired without harm coming to him.

Samuel did not lie - everything said was true, but not everything true was said.

5) Discussion question. Why is resolve necessary for wisdom?

James 3:13

"Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom."

6) Comprehension question. Based on James 3:13, how do we display wisdom? Select the most appropriate answer.

(a) By showing off how wise we are

(b) By good thoughts

(c) By good conduct

(d) By good patience

James 3:14-16

“But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.”

7) Comprehension question. Based on the video lecture and James 3:14-16, which of the following characterizes self ambition? Select all that apply.

- (a) Leads to peace
- (b) Leads to jealousy and conflict
- (c) Desire to advance one's power and influence to the detriment of others
- (d) Desire to advance one's power and influence to the betterment of others
- (e) Lying
- (f) Being truthful
- (g) Back stabbing
- (h) Dirty tricks
- (i) Honest conversation
- (j) Honourable business
- (k) Two-faced and hypocritical, false appearances
- (l) Currying favour
- (m) Relying on God
- (n) Unethical means to achieve goals
- (o) Humility

8) Discussion question. The effects of worldly wisdom are:

- Self interest
- Jealousy
- Disorder
- Every vile practice

Explain how worldly wisdom leads to these.

The source of worldly wisdom is earthly, unspiritual, and demonic. At face value, it might seem something noble and honourable.

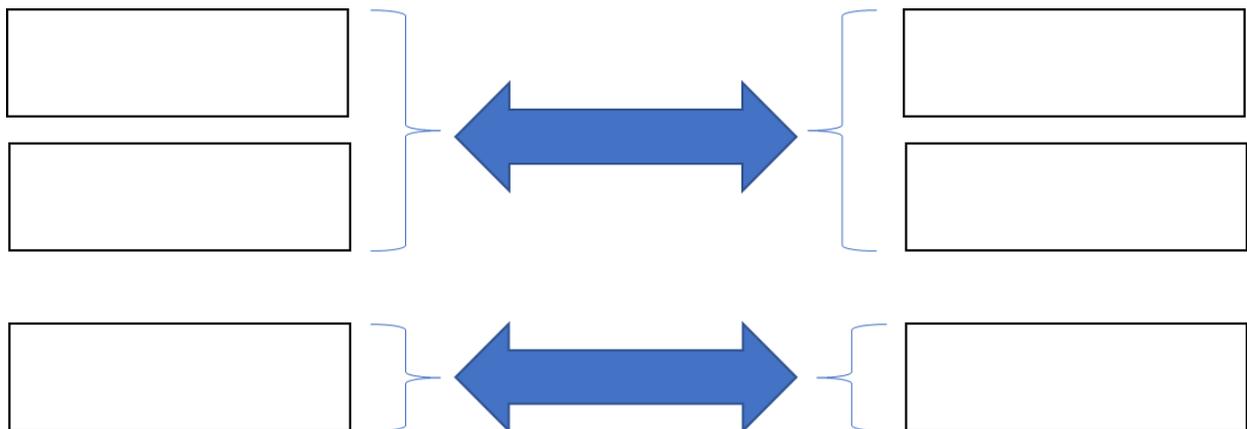
However, worldly wisdom centers around self - which results in self interest, jealousy, disorder, and every vile practice.

Wisdom from above, on the other hand, is towards God (the fear of God) and caring for others other than ourselves.

James 3:17

“But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.”

9) Comprehension question. Based on the video lecture and James 3:17, certain characteristics of wisdom conflict with others and wisdom is required to maintain balance. Fill in the blanks.



10) Comprehension question. Based on James 3:17, what are the characteristics of divine wisdom? Fill in the blanks.

#	Characteristics	Explanation
1	Pure	<i>Holy - the purity that comes from desire to please God - internal motives align with external conduct - Morally upright</i>
2	Peaceable	<i>Peaceful relationships - natural tendency is to be argumentative, quarrelsome, belligerent, and quick-tempered - God's supernatural life</i>

		<i>within us guards against alienating others - remove ill will</i>
3	Gentle	<i>Equitable, moderate, yielding - surrenders his rights for a higher ideal</i>
4	Open to reason	<i>Sense of "teachable" - puts aside stubbornness and readily yields to the truth - conciliatory, flexible, and open to change</i>
5	Full of mercy	<i>Mercy implies looking on somebody with compassion when they probably deserve punishment - while worldly wisdom would heap on ridicule or judgment, mercy shows kindness and benevolence</i>
6	Good fruits	<i>Good deeds to express mercy</i>
7	Impartial	<i>Uncompromising principles no matter what - no bias - yet not legalistic</i>
8	Sincere	<i>Unhypocritical - not an actor playing two parts - what you see is what you get</i>

James 3:18

"Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace."

11) Discussion question. Based on the video lecture and James 3:18, what are the end results of wisdom from above? Consider the following aspects:

- Harvest of righteousness
- Peace
- Spiritual maturity

Takeaway

1. Wisdom can be classified as heavenly wisdom or worldly wisdom.
2. Wisdom is valuable, gives successful living, is a gift, and is founded on one fundamental fact - the fear of God.
3. Wisdom requires factual knowledge, situational insight, and necessary resolve.
4. Wisdom from above results in righteousness, our goal is to be made in the image of God.
5. Wisdom from above is characterised by peace, whereas wisdom from below is characterised by self-interest.

Case Study

Case 1 – Identifying Wisdom

Sun Tzu's **The Art of War** is a book of conflict knowledge and tactics revolving around several key concepts, including: Knowing when to fight and when not to fight. Knowing how to mislead the enemy. Knowing oneself and one's enemy.

Sun Tzu is well known to be a wise scholar, especially in the sphere of modern business.

1) Discussion question. Is Sun Tzu's Art of War an example of wisdom?

It is an example of wisdom, but worldly wisdom.

2) If yes, what wisdom is it and why?

It is worldly wisdom as it seeks to protect self-interest only.

Case 2 – Exercising Wisdom

King Solomon was well known for his wisdom.

Consider 1 Kings 3:16-28.

“Now two women who were harlots came to the king, and stood before him. 17 And one woman said, “O my lord, this woman and I dwell in the same house; and I gave birth while she was in the house. 18 Then it happened, the third day after I had given birth, that this woman also gave birth. And we were together; [a]no one was with us in the house, except the two of us in the house. 19 And this woman’s son died in the night, because she lay on him. 20 So she arose in the middle of the night and took my son from my side, while your maidservant slept, and laid him in her bosom, and laid her dead child in my bosom. 21 And when I rose in the morning to nurse my son, there he was, dead. But when I had examined him in the morning, indeed, he was not my son whom I had borne.”

22 Then the other woman said, “No! But the living one is my son, and the dead one is your son.”

And the first woman said, “No! But the dead one is your son, and the living one is my son.” Thus they spoke before the king.

23 And the king said, “The one says, ‘This is my son, who lives, and your son is the dead one’; and the other says, ‘No! But your son is the dead one, and my son is the living one.’ ”

24 Then the king said, "Bring me a sword." So they brought a sword before the king. 25 And the king said, "Divide the living child in two, and give half to one, and half to the other."

26 Then the woman whose son was living spoke to the king, for she yearned with compassion for her son; and she said, "O my lord, give her the living child, and by no means kill him!"

But the other said, "Let him be neither mine nor yours, but divide him."

27 So the king answered and said, "Give the first woman the living child, and by no means kill him; she is his mother."

28 And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had rendered; and they feared the king, for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him to administer justice."

In this event, King Solomon displayed 3 of the important characteristics of godly wisdom that leads to righteousness:

- Factual knowledge
- Situational insight
- Necessary resolve

1) Discussion question. What was the factual knowledge that King Solomon had?

The factual knowledge that King Solomon had was that one of the mothers was lying and the other was telling the truth. It was factually correct that one child has died and one child has survived. One mother was lying so that her loss would not be hers alone.

2) Discussion question. What was the situational awareness that King Solomon had?

The situational awareness that King Solomon had was that the true mother of the child would never want to see her child die.

3) Discussion question. What was the necessary resolve that King Solomon had?

The necessary resolve that King Solomon had was to request for a sword to divide the child. He was put in a situation where the child's life rested in his hands and if he was too afraid to be decisive, it would result in an unfair and incorrect judgment.

Although it was a feigned division, he needed to do so to bring out the response of the true mother.

**4) Discussion question. Why was King Solomon's wisdom considered wisdom from above?
Read 1 Kings 3:9-10.**

It was wisdom to judge God's people because King Solomon feared the Lord. It was not wisdom for his own self interest.